

## Amusements.

AMERICAN THEATRE—8:15—The Goddess of Truth.  
 ABBEY THEATRE—8:15—The Goddess of Truth.  
 ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8:15—The Goddess of Truth.  
 AMERICAN THEATRE—8:15—The Goddess of Truth.  
 AMERICAN INSTITUTE—10 p. m.—Exhibition.  
 BROADWAY THEATRE—8:15—Julius Caesar.  
 CHICKERING HALL—4 p. m.—Days on the Danube.  
 COLUMBIAN THEATRE—8:15—The Heart of Mary.  
 DALLAS THEATRE—11 p. m.—The Heart of Mary.  
 EMPIRE THEATRE—8:15—Bohemia.  
 EDEN MUSEE—Concert.  
 FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—8:15—Cavalleria Rusticana.  
 GARRICK THEATRE—8:20—The Square of Dames.  
 GRAND OPERA HOUSE—8:15—L'Espresso.  
 HARLEM SQUARE THEATRE—8:15—The Heart of Mary.  
 HAYES THEATRE—8:15—Bohemia.  
 IRVING PLACE THEATRE—8:15—Comte Gucki.  
 KORTER & BIALS—Vaudeville.  
 LYCEUM THEATRE—8:15—The Heart of Mary.  
 OLYMPIA THEATRE—8:15—Marguerite.  
 PALMER'S THEATRE—8:15—Romeo and Juliet.  
 PASTORS—12:30 to 1 p. m.—Vaudeville.  
 PROCTOR'S PLEASURE PALACE—12:12 midnight—Vaudeville.  
 STANLEY THEATRE—8:15—Chimie Fadden.  
 TONY THEATRE—8:15—The War of Wealth.  
 TROVADERO MUSIC HALL—Vaudeville.  
 14TH STREET THEATRE—8:15—The Minstrel of Clare.

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## Business Notices.

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## New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1896.

EIGHTEEN PAGES.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

CONGRESS.—Both branches in session. Senate: The Spanish Minister's criticisms of recent speeches in the Senate led to a lively debate in which Señor de Lôme was denounced by Messrs. Lodge, Teller, Morgan, Chandler and Fry, and defended by Messrs. Hale and Gray. Senators Sherman and Hoar had a dispute over the latter's resolution. House: The Post-office Appropriation bill was discussed in Committee of the Whole.

FOREIGN.—Dr. Jameson and his officers in the Transvaal raid were arraigned in the Bow Street Court, London; there was no popular demonstration; the hearing was adjourned for a week. It is reported from Madrid that the rebels under Gomez and Maceo are advancing upon Havana and that a great battle seems imminent. The composition of the Di Rudini Ministry was officially announced in Rome. Isaac Elchonon, chief Rabbi of the Jewish Church in Russia, died in Kovno, on Sunday.

DOMESTIC.—The Senate at Albany passed the Raines Liquor Tax bill; the Assembly advanced the Greater New-York bill to third reading; Lieutenant-Governor Saxton, in a letter to the Rev. Dr. R. S. Storrs, of Brooklyn, says he does not approve of the Greater New-York bill. The first instalment of Venezuela's case was presented to the Boundary Commission. The report of the Board of Engineers which inspected the proposed routes of the Nicaragua Canal was made public. Senator-elect Foraker presided at the Republican State Convention in Ohio; it was a McKinley Jollification. The Kansas Republicans endorsed McKinley.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—The views of a number of business men regarding their preferences for the Presidency are given. A manifesto to the officers and soldiers of the Salvation Army in the country was received by cable from General Booth. The Board of Aldermen accepted the Heine memorial fountain. William G. Wadsworth, who was shot in his office at Weehawken, N. J., by ex-Detective Clifford, died from his wounds at Roosevelt Hospital. Bryan Lawrence, second vice-president of the Emigrants' Industrial Savings Bank, died suddenly in his carriage. Stocks were irregular and dull.

THE WEATHER.—Forecast for to-day: Cloudy, with rain or snow; warmer. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 34 degrees; lowest, 28; average, 31½.

In plain defiance of public sentiment the Board of Aldermen decided to accept the Heine Fountain yesterday, and by a vote of 23 to 5 ordered that a site for it be selected on the North Side. It is not certain, however, that their action will be decisive, as a bill has passed the Legislature providing that no statutory shall be accepted by the city without the approval of the Mayor, two other city officials and the presidents of two art societies. This bill is now before the Mayor, who began a hearing on it yesterday and will continue it to-morrow. Naturally, the bill has aroused much opposition from members of the Board of Aldermen. It has the support of all people who wish to see the art standard of the city kept high, and they will earnestly hope that it may be enacted in time to prevent the consummation of the Aldermen's scheme.

Notwithstanding the impression that has been created by unauthorized publications, the report of the special Board appointed by the President to determine the feasibility and cost of building the Nicaragua Canal is not unfavorable to the project. The Board consisted of Colonel Ludlow, Civil Engineer Endicott and Mr. Noble, whose report was made public in Washington yesterday. They declare that the work is a feasible one, and their provisional estimate of the cost is \$133,472,983. This estimate is to a considerable extent a matter of guesswork, but it will afford at least a practical working basis for the construction of the canal, whether it is built by the United States Government or under its sanction.

The vigorous and telling letters of the Rev. Dr. Storrs and Lieutenant-Governor Saxton on the question of consolidation go right to the heart of the subject, and they should create in the legislative mind the same effect that they will produce on the popular mind. Dr. Storrs

makes it plain that consolidation, as now proposed, will be in defiance of the wishes of the people of Brooklyn, and we think he scarcely exaggerates the effect which the enactment of the pending bill will have on the Republican party in that city. He believes the effect will be disastrous; the Republican General Committee of Brooklyn said the same thing not long ago. Mr. Saxton also expresses the gravest apprehension on this point. His letter shows with much force the illogical character of the plan which first declares consolidation and then proposes for the preparation of a charter. First the charter, and then consolidation by the enactment of the charter, provided it is satisfactory to the majority of the people interested, as he well says, is the logical order of procedure. Even at this late date these weighty letters should lead the Legislature to call a halt and change its policy in this important matter.

The report submitted to the Senate yesterday by the majority of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, recommending that an investigation of the Alabama State and legislative elections of 1894 be made, is of special interest because the right of John T. Morgan to hold a seat in the Senate is involved. The report deals with the matter boldly, asserts the right of the Senate to make such an investigation, and declares that it may become the duty of the Senate to oust Mr. Morgan. It speaks of "carefully planned and deliberately manufactured" "masses of fraudulent returns" in such a way as to show that it is the duty of the body to ascertain all the facts and see that justice is done so far as the National Government is concerned.

## THE RAINES BILL.

There are Republicans outside the Legislature. Also Republicans outside the comparatively small body of politicians who just now seem to be working their own sweet will in controlling legislation and in directing upon important issues the policy of the party in the State. There are a great many of them. As a general rule, they do not own their thinking. They do not always make their influence felt upon the members of the Legislature or in the councils of the managing politicians. It may be that this is a mistake on their part. Whether so or not, one thing is certain: that this large mass of Republicans in the State outside the Legislature and the managing politicians has to be reckoned with at some time. They will not take their views of party policy from either Legislature or politicians without balancing them somewhat and giving them serious consideration. And the present is a time when both the Legislature and the politicians who rather loudly proclaim their ability to control the Legislature might perhaps do well to give themselves a momentary pause and reflect whether, upon the whole, it is wise to make a policy for the party in this State which the great mass of the voters of the party are by no means agreed upon, or, rather, to state it more positively and quite within the truth, which will divide and weaken the party.

Let us recall a fact of recent political history, absolutely patent and undeniable. The last Republican State Convention was confronted with one question more disturbing than all others. It had been agitated in the press and in public meetings and by means of unusual demonstrations for months before the convention met. It was that of the excise laws. It was not a question of high license nor of prohibition nor of dividing the law levied upon the liquor traffic between the rural districts and the cities, from which, naturally, most of the tax would be derived. Nor was it in any sense a question whether the morals of large cities could be better promoted by taking away from them the right and the privilege of home rule and placing them under the control of State commissions. In the course of the agitation all these points may have been touched upon, but the main question was whether the liquor traffic and the saloon business should have special privileges above any other trade or calling. The liquor champions had not the boldness to stand up and demand that a statute law be passed in their behalf. They were wise enough to know that upon a straight issue of that character they would be voted down by an overwhelming majority in the State. But they had more than boldness. They had audacity. They did not hesitate to say that their business was of such general utility and necessity that it should be afforded immunity from violating statute law. That was the sum of their contention. Out of the situation thus evolved came the conditions which confronted the last Republican State Convention.

That convention, according to common report and current belief, was under the same guidance and control as the Legislature now in session. What did it do? Did it meet the question squarely? No. It is a matter of history that its leading and controlling spirits shied at it, dodged it, and were getting ready to ignore it entirely when Warner Miller put it to them squarely in the face and made them consent to say that the maintenance of the Sunday laws was necessary in the interests of labor and morality. They did it, but when they had done it got frightened at their own work, and here in New-York County tried to undo it through Mr. Lauterbach's County Committee by the passage of an ambiguous resolution, which said nothing, meant everything, and lost the county. And these are the statesmen who, being in control of the Legislature as they were of the last State Convention, have taken up the excise question and decided to formulate upon it a policy for the whole party. Not only that, but to force it through the Legislature by caucus rule and gag methods, as though it were something settled and agreed upon by the voice of a unanimous party. Here's a different sort of courage from what was manifested in the State Convention. There they stood and shivered. Here they stand and crack the whip of the caucus. Then they knew they had the party and the people to reckon with. Now they evidently think they have enough power in the legislative and executive departments of the government to make them safe through the strength they can gather from the patronage to be derived from an Excise bill which is sweeping in its changes and absolutely bewildering in its scope. Isn't it worth while for this Legislature and these politicians to stop and think for a moment of the risks they are taking? Why should a measure of so much importance as this be rushed through with hardly the opportunity for debate? The convention faltered. Why shouldn't the Legislature proceed slowly?

## FOR MORE LIGHT ON CUBA.

New-England's voice rings true. It was raised wisely, though ineffectually, nearly three months ago, against blundering precipitation in the Venezuela affair. To-day it is heard more strongly, and, it is to be hoped, more convincingly, in the case of Cuba. It would be folly for any one to accuse, or to suspect, Mr. Hale, Mr. Boutelle, Mr. Hoar and their colleagues of lack of courage, or of lack of sympathy with every effort for the enlargement of human freedom and the vindication of human rights. Their opposition to the pending belligerent resolutions must be attributed to other causes than these. We believe it is justly to be attributed to a high sense of patriotism, and of duty and responsibility to the Nation of which they are the representatives and servants. They are unwilling to show sympathy with Cuba. They are unwilling that the United States should commit itself hurriedly and on insufficient knowledge to a course of action that might

and probably would lead to the most serious results.

Nor is this view of the case impaired by the publication, simultaneously with Mr. Hale's plea for deliberation, of Mr. Quesada's scathing arraignment of the Spanish Government and its chief agent in Cuba. Between the two utterances there is no essential disagreement. To listen to the one is not to discredit the other. The monstrous tales related by Mr. Quesada may be true. The world knows some of them are, and probably believes all are. But they relate to a former war, not to this one. Since we let those horrors pass a score of years ago, it is too late for us to take them up now as a cause of present quarrel with Spain. It is true that a leading actor in them is again in command in Cuba. But he has not yet resumed his former practices. When he does, it will be time to talk of intervention. Just now he seems inclined to modify the harsh orders he issued on assuming control, and to wage war with at least some semblance of humanity. If he does fight fairly now, he is entitled to fair treatment and honest judgment.

The significant fact, which alone should be sufficient to cause delay, is that Congress has at present before it not one scrap of positive and legal information concerning the state of affairs in Cuba. It has been trying the case and seeking to render judgment on nothing but hearsay evidence. That evidence may be true. We believe the bulk of it is. But yet it is not such as the Government of a Nation should require as the basis for the most serious action any Government can take. The motion offered by Mr. Hoar on Monday, requesting the President to give the Senate all possible information on the subject, was eminently proper. It should have been offered and adopted long ago, before any of these concurrent resolutions were brought forward. The best thing that can be done now is to pass that resolution and get that information. If then it shall appear proper to recognize Cuban belligerency, or to intervene in behalf of Cuban independence, or to take any other action, Congress can do so with vastly more force and efficiency than now. To act first and think afterward is a poor rule for any one; especially for the Government of a great Nation.

## THE FACTS ABOUT CONSOLIDATION.

Let us consider the chief occurrences which have led up to the present status of the consolidation project. In 1890 a commission was created to inquire into the whole subject, of course without authority to bind anybody or settle anything. In 1893 that commission, after careful and disinterested investigation, proposed to the Legislature a bill providing for a test of public opinion in the communities concerned, and nothing more. The bill was defeated. In 1894 it was reintroduced and enacted. The election of that year related to an unusual number of important affairs. A Governor was to be chosen, there was intense interest in the struggle for municipal reform, a new Constitution was put up for acceptance or rejection, and there were other matters of moment asking for attention, of which the consolidation test was one. Certainly it deserved earnest consideration, but as certainly failed to get it. Apparently there was not enough public interest in the question to cause much discussion, nor enough discussion to cause much interest; and when Election Day came there was an extraordinary multiplicity of ballots to weary and confuse voters. In this city, which in any case was sure to retain its name and identity, there was a majority of about 27,000 in favor of the proposition. In Kings County there was a majority of 277 in its favor; but in Brooklyn, as it was constituted when the submission bill was passed, the proposition was defeated, and about 44,000 persons who voted for Governor did not vote at all on the consolidation question.

However, it seemed to be generally assumed at that time that the expression of opinion was decisive enough to warrant legislation of some sort, and a bill to carry it into effect was introduced and barely defeated at the end of the session. But meantime opposition to union without resubmission developed rapidly in Brooklyn, as the evidence seems to us to prove. It was not only more strenuous, but numerically stronger when the session ended than when it began, and it has been increasing ever since. It is now claimed by some persons that the death of the bill was legally the death of the project, inasmuch as that was the last Legislature under the old Constitution. We do not think much of this argument; we are frank to say. But it is not one-half so absurd as the contention that the expression of opinion in 1894 was just like the election of a public official or any other act of government by a majority of voters, or even that it was equivalent to a mandate to the Legislature to enact consolidation. By the terms of the act and all the utterances of the campaign the vote on consolidation was a test of existing sentiment, and nothing more. In Kings County 64,744 voters said that they liked the idea of union; 64,467 voters said that they disliked it, and 36,979 said nothing. But whatever they said or left unsaid, they had all been assured over and over again, and with especial emphasis by the Commission of Inquiry, commonly called the Consolidation Commission, that it was "nothing more than" "a simple expression of opinion on the general subject," merely "advisory," having "no finality about it." We do not believe that 1 per cent of the people had the slightest suspicion that they were irrevocably committing themselves to the acceptance of any sort of a scheme of union which any sort of a Legislature under any sort of a boss might decree.

Yet precisely such a bestowal of authority is the interpretation which the machine leaders have been putting upon that minute preponderance of feeble sentiment in favor of a mere idea ever since the present session began, and they are now apparently almost ready to execute their purpose. The Tribune thinks, and always has thought, that consolidation would be a good thing for both New-York and Brooklyn, and we have no doubt that it ought to come and would come through natural forces in the near future if no tyrannical pressure were brought to bear. But we do not think that New-York has either the right or the wish to compel an unconditional surrender of Brooklyn's municipal existence. As for the bill now pending, which decrees consolidation on January 1, 1898, and creates a commission of residents to frame a charter within twelve months and then expire, it is in some important respects less open to objection than the bill which it nominally replaced, though strong points are made against it on general and on special grounds. That is to say, it denies, outright the urgent claim to resubmission of the main proposition, or at least to a referendum on the details of the union, and it leaves the door wide open to dangerous acts, alike of omission and commission, during an interval of incertitude.

But that is not the only element in the situation which creates distrust. In spite of contradictions the suspicion spreads that the purpose of the machine to upset the established order and govern this municipality by commissions has not been abandoned. The conviction is general that neither credulous and docile members of the Legislature, who are not allowed to know all that is in contemplation, nor the people in general have any substantial guarantee against a monumental breach of faith. If the leaders are able to dispel that doubt in an honorable manner they will do well to dispel it at once. If they dispel it by an act of perfidy, they may have the Governor to reckon with, and if the

Governor defaults, they certainly will have to reckon with the people.

## CRISPI AND ITALY.

"The King is dead; long live the King!" is the cry of the unthinking few in Italy. The thoughtful many are silent, and not without apprehension. Crispi is out, because of disaster to a policy which he pursued against his own best judgment; and Di Rudini, having swallowed his principles, is in, to pursue a policy he has bitterly opposed. The change was easily effected. But what comes after? If the stern old Cardinal Red Shirt could not conquer Abyssinia, what hope has this demagogical aristocrat of doing so? Or what hope is there of improvement in domestic administration? It is easy to make one man a scapegoat for all sins, his own and others, drive him out, and put another in his place. But what if there be no other competent to fill his place? That, in brief, appears to be the plight of Italy to-day. The justice or injustice of making Crispi the scapegoat for all the nation's ills need not now be discussed. Doubtless he has done some evil and much good. But the essential point is that he has at least ruled the country, and has done so to the general satisfaction of the people. And that is something no one else has done. Perhaps there are others who could do it. If so, they have yet to be discovered. Certainly Di Rudini's former administration was not such as to give high promise for the one he is now beginning; while as for the notorious Giolitti, a hint of his return should provoke a revolution.

An accurate estimate of Crispi and his place in Italy is given, we believe, in the letter on the subject which we publish elsewhere in to-day's paper. The writer is an American gentleman of eminent attainments, and of keen and cultivated powers of discernment, who has for years been an interested, though impartial, observer of the progress of affairs in Italy. He has found, as he tells us, that the Italian people are by no means blind to Crispi's faults. At the same time they recognize his great ability, and his vast superiority as an administrator over all his contemporaries. They have no especial love for him. But they deem it better to endure the ills they have than to fly to others that they know not of. They are not willing to part with Crispi until they have a better man to put into his place, and such a man they do not now know where to find. That is why Crispi, apart from the use of force and fraud, with which he has been charged, commands such great popular support at the polls. That is why he will probably be overwhelmingly returned to power again just as soon as Di Rudini gets into difficulties and appeals to the country; which may be very soon. That is why he would probably beat all competitors in the race for the Presidency if the monarchy were to be abolished and a republic proclaimed to-day. The Socialists, Anarchists, brigands and outlaws hate him, of course, for they have felt the weight of his iron hand without a velvet glove. But the Italian people in general trust him and prefer him to any other man of the time. They would rather have a good Government than a bad one; but, at any rate, they want a Government with positive convictions and with the full courage of them.

Our correspondent is doubtless right, too, in thinking the Italian people do not care much for the Triple Alliance, for the military system it imposes, and for the foreign conquests it has inspired. The King does care for these things, of course, and so do the politicians. So do the army and navy officers, for obvious reasons. So, most of all, do the speculators and contractors who grow rich out of them. But the people prefer low taxes to big armaments, and domestic prosperity to foreign prestige. We have never been able to discover among them any widespread desire to emigrate to Abyssinia; nor any special love for Austria, who once held two of their fairest provinces in bondage, as she still holds thousands of their brethren; nor yet any deep hatred for France, who added them, albeit for a price, in their first fight for freedom and unity. It is true that Crispi stands for the Triple Alliance and for militarism; but he stands for a great deal else; and it is because of the latter and in spite of the former that the Italians put their faith in him. What our correspondent says about the dynasty is not the least striking nor the least credible. It has for some time seemed probable that the continuance of the dynasty beyond the present reign will depend entirely upon its good behavior, a fact which no one recognizes more clearly than King Humbert himself. There is in fact in all Europe no land with greater possibilities and probabilities of revolutionary changes in the near future than are seen in Italy to-day; and the principle on which those changes are likely to proceed is, Italy for Italians rather than for Germany and Austria, and Italians for Italy rather than for the wilds of Abyssinia.

## GOLD EXPORTS AND TARIFFS.

Some Democratic journals are gravely asserting that "there is no adverse balance of trade," although the record value of merchandise, gold and silver exported last year exceeded the apparent value of imports by \$138,000,000. Why was the net export of gold, amounting to \$72,000,287, and of silver, amounting to \$42,547,146, unless to pay for the excess of imports fraudulently invoiced at \$801,633,490 over exports? There is not a merchant or Custom House officer who does not know that the undervaluations are surprisingly large under the present tariff, and to the revenue disastrous, and extraordinary efforts and new rules have been made to prevent them, as yet without success; and, nevertheless, it is gravely asserted that the involved value is all that we have to pay for the goods imported. If the undervaluations are but 15 per cent, and for many years they averaged 10 per cent, according to the ablest Democratic teachers of economy, then the actual value of imported goods was \$921,600,000 last year, which merchandise exported was only \$824,822,475. As the adverse balance, less than \$100,000,000, would even be smaller than the net exports of gold and silver, \$14,613,433 last year, it is probable that the undervaluations were more than 15 per cent.

Next the same papers are stating that the net exports of gold in fourteen years, 1847-'60, under comparatively low duties, were in all only \$23,329,127. Any statistical abstract gives the official figures showing net exports of \$437,805,558 gold and silver in those years, and adds that the amount was almost all gold, as it must have been, because the total production of silver in this country prior to 1860 had been only \$1,500,000. The actual average yearly in this period of low duties was over \$30,000,000. Then it is asserted, as if it were something startling, that in the thirty-one years, 1864-1894, the net exports of gold "rose to the tremendous sum of \$552,100,000." Taking the statement as it stands, the amount averages less than \$18,000,000 yearly, against over \$30,000,000 in the previous period.

The comparison made gives conclusive proof that the higher duties have not caused increased exports of gold, but tend to lessen them. An intelligent opponent of Protection, moreover, would instantly admit that the long period of underevaluated paper currency, in which this country had scarcely any use for gold and used legal tenders almost exclusively for domestic payments, could not be honestly included in the comparison. The omission of the greenback period, when irredeemable paper drove out gold, leaves the fifteen fiscal years, 1880-1894, under protective duties, to compare with fourteen years under lower duties prior to the War, the

gold standard prevailing in each. In the protective fifteen years there were net imports of gold amounting to \$4,369,811, or \$291,321 per year. In the fourteen years of low tariff, on the other hand, there were net exports of gold exceeding \$30,000,000 a year.

The very year the Democratic tariff went into force the exports of gold went up to the old average, and were \$30,083,721 in the fiscal year ending with last June, but rose to \$72,000,287 in the calendar year 1895. The college professors and other writers who refer to the old and exploded theory of balance of trade have in mind notions which nobody now entertains, nor does any one deny that England, France and other nations having colonies and investments all over the world, from which they draw revenue constantly, import with profit more merchandise than they export. The excess represents their revenue from investments of past centuries. But it remains as true as it ever was that the nation which by low duties invites its people to purchase abroad in actual value of foreign goods more than they can pay in actual value of their merchandise exported, has to settle by exporting other titles to property or specie. Democratic borrowing of \$275,000,000 in the last three years is evidence which plain people understand.

There is every reason why the rules laid down by the State Commission in Lunacy should be strictly enforced, and the abuse that has been poured out on the officials who have done their duty in enforcing them is entirely uncalled for.

In explosive quality the Chicago Infernal machine is generally on a par with a bologna sausage or a can of Vancouver salmon. It is, therefore, not exciting to learn that a new one has been sent to Mr. Armour, who has enough already to start a museum, nor that the local newspaper reporter comes under suspicion of having sent it partly as a joke and partly as a matter of news and business. His ideas of humor and enterprise are curious, but seem to fit the locality like the fur on a prairie dog.

It is not surprising that the peninsular student should explode under moderate concussion, as he is now doing all over Spain and Italy, the first in blind and howling rage against the United States, and the latter against the victorious but remote and inattentive Negus of Abyssinia. But there is no reason why their example should be followed here, and the impetuous youth of Chicago and Evanston, who have just been tearing the Spanish flag to tatters and hanging in effigy the Spanish King, might have employed their time to much better purpose. In the Mediterranean countries the authorities shut up their schools when their inmates become too obstreperous, an expedient not yet found necessary here, where the student class is not commonly found a menace to social order. Still, it is clear that they have yet some lessons of conduct and self-control to master, unless they are willing to drop to the level of the impetuous and hot-headed youth of Madrid and Barcelona and Naples, who are now in such a violent state of effervescence. Nobody wishes to believe this, and the best thing they can do now and hereafter is to cherish their own flag, without violating any other, and to have nothing to do with stuffed kings on any pretence or pretext.

England's outlay this year will be \$500,000,000, of which \$110,000,000 go for new warships, the rest being absorbed in fixed charges. It is an expensive nation to maintain, but has so far been found worth all its costs.

On February 19 it was announced that the hereditary Ferdinand had been formally and officially recognized as Prince of Bulgaria by all the signatories of the Treaty of Berlin. On February 20 it was announced that the leading newspaper of Sophia had been suppressed, and that a new Bulgarian press law had been promulgated which was a literal copy of the Russian press law, the chief feature of which is prohibition of anything remotely resembling freedom of speech. The czar is to be congratulated on the speed with which his new province is becoming Russified.

Technically the famous Broadway Squad has been abolished, but it is not likely that the general public would ever know anything about it if they trusted to their own observation and did not read the newspapers. Its members are not hereafter to form a precinct by themselves, but it is said that the same men will guard the crossings along our principal thoroughfare for a time at least. Naturally New-Yorkers have taken a certain pride in the physique of the bluecoats who have been such conspicuous figures on Broadway, and there will be a general desire that other things being equal—the same policy may continue to be pursued.

Chairman Loud, of the House Committee on Postoffice, is of the opinion that the Postoffice Department is most extravagantly managed, and says that if it was conducted on business principles by a good business man he would be able to make a profit of \$30,000,000 or \$40,000,000 a year. Now, why does not President Cleveland act on this hint? He knew perfectly well when he appointed the present Postmaster-General that Mr. Wilson was not a good business man.

The question of duplicate street names has recently come to the front in Brooklyn, and a committee of the Board of Aldermen has undertaken to straighten out the complications that have been found to exist. Judging by the action taken at its first meeting, the committee has gone to work in the wrong way, and is bound to make things worse than they are. No one will dispute that two or more streets with identical names ought not to exist in any city, but certainly the sapient members of this committee have gone too far in laying down the hard-and-fast rule that no name shall be used more than once as part of a street designation. Such a rule would erase from the map some of the best-known street names in the city. As a single example, there are a Clinton-st. and a Clinton-ave., each a thoroughfare of the first importance and each of long standing. No possible confusion results from this repetition, save, perhaps, in the case of a casual stranger, and it would be an absurdity to change either one or the other. The use of "street," "avenue," "place" or other descriptive word is not a good thing, but when such names are established they should not be disturbed. The Aldermen will do enough if they get rid of all actual duplications, and they are not called on to do more.

## PERSONAL.

Congressman Charles Daniels, of Buffalo, formerly a Justice of the New-York Supreme Court, told a story the other day which shows on what strange evidence people sometimes adopt conclusions. He told how he had convicted a man of the murder of his wife, and the case was finally carried to the Court of Appeals, which reversed the finding of the lower court. A special hearing was ordered by the Governor. This was held at Syracuse, and Justice Daniels was called upon to preside. In examining the jurors, one man said that he was prejudiced in the matter. Why and how he had been so prejudiced from the papers or by talking with interested parties, or by hearsay, he replied to every question. He was, nevertheless, prejudiced. He was excused, but Justice Daniels was not satisfied, and he sent the Sheriff and had the juror brought back to him. He asked him where he had gained his prejudice. The fellow replied, "I don't know anything about the case, but the lawyers made such idiots of themselves in examining the jurors that I knew the man must be guilty."

infant he was found abandoned in the streets by the Bishop of Udine, and was recommended to the Emperor of Austria, who had him in time trained at an Austrian military college. He returned to Italy after the cessation of Venice by Austria.

Don Jaime de Bourbon, the only son of Don Carlos, is a sub-lieutenant of dragons in the Russian Army.

It is said that some Albany artists are indignant at ex-Governor Flower because he chose a Watertown, N. Y., artist to paint his portrait for the Albany municipal gallery.

Mme. Etelka Gerster, the opera singer, is about to start a vocal academy in Berlin.

When Mrs. Melba was in Washington recently she met Speaker Reed in the Capitol. "Why don't you have a fight here?" she said to him in laughing protest. "I would much rather see a fight than hear a speech." "Then, why didn't you let me know about my coming?" said Speaker Reed, not at all laughing. "I would have had a fight for your special delight, and if you will only wait I will go on the floor and have a row seat close by." At this time she couldn't wait, and the Speaker's offer came to naught.

The Rev. Dr. George A. Gordon, pastor of the Old South Church, Boston, has accepted an invitation to speak at the coming session of the Oxford, England, Summer School of Theology.

"The Boston Globe" gives some humorous reminiscences of the late Judge Abbott, of Massachusetts. One day, in the Suffolk County Court, it is narrated, he was called to the other end of the bench to speak with a lawyer. There were some Hebrews among the witnesses, and the opposing counsel wished them sworn in the Hebrew form, as the clerk told them to get their hats and put them on. When he had partially administered the oath Judge Abbott returned to his seat and said, "I have sworn them in the Hebrew form, but I have not sworn them in the English form, and the oath was administered. But a few minutes later the Judge innocently embarked upon a series of remarks by asking him what his Christian name was!"

## THE TALK OF THE DAY.

"What is there to see at the theatres to-night?" asked the man from the country. His city friend asked, "A large hat, with four ostrich feathers, an enamelled buckle, a cluster of roses and several jewelled hatpins," he said. "Be sure and take your opera-glasses, for then you can distinguish the minor details of the trimming."

The huckleberry industry in New-Jersey may be said to be looking up, although this is not the huckleberry season in that State. The Assembly has passed the rather peculiar bill requiring huckleberries must hereafter be picked by hand. Machine-picked huckleberries, if there are such things, will evidently stand no show in the markets of New-Jersey.

Speaking of the proposed use of dogs in the German army to give first aid to the injured, James Payn, in "The Independent," says: "It will be curious if these animals distinguish themselves in this humane employment, as the dogs of St. Bernard have done in a different field. They have already been taught, it is said, to 'search for wounded men,' either by day or night, with unerring accuracy." But how do they know where to go? Indeed, as those who have been experimenting upon them have been obviously only pretending to be wounded, they must hitherto have made nothing but mistakes. To a wounded man who has not been informed of this canine education it must be rather alarming to find a strange dog, with a cold nose, taking, as it were, a diagnosis of his condition before applying the latest remedies attached to its collar.

Absent-Minded Party.—